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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,675	12/26/2001	Michael A. Adams	01003-1002	8405

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EXAMINER

COUSO, JOSE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,675

Applicant(s)

ADAMS, MICHAEL A.

Examiner

Jose L. Couso

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alattar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,297).

With regard to claim 1, Alattar describes processing the media signal to increase a number of null blocks in the media signal (refer for example to column 10, lines 61-68), wherein a difference between corresponding null blocks of preceding frames is zero (refer for example to column 28, line 45 through column 29, line 5); and replacing each of the null blocks in the media signal with a single bit having a first value (refer for example to column 10, lines 61-68).

As to claim 2, Alattar describes appending a bit having a second value other than the first value to a block in the media signal that is not one of the null blocks (refer for example to column 10, lines 40-57).

In regard to claims 3 and 13, Alattar describes wherein the null block is a 16x16 pixel block (refer for example to column 25, lines 1-3, in this portion Alattar discusses a quadrant, i.e. 4x4 block, and a cell which is made of four quadrants, hence constituting a 16x16 pixel block).

With regard to claim 4, Alattar describes wherein the processing the media signal includes performing an image stabilization analysis on the media signal (refer for example to column 12, lines 36-44).

As to claim 5, Alattar describes wherein performing the image stabilization analysis includes identifying a block in the media signal that differ from a corresponding block on the preceding frame by an offset (refer for example to column 8, line 58 through column 9, line 3 and column 9, lines 18-29); and replacing the identified block with a null block and an indication of the offset (refer for example to column 10, lines 56-58).

In regard to claim 6, Alattar describes applying a hysteresis filter to the media to identify a noisy block, wherein a result of the hysteresis filter for the noisy block falls below a hysteresis threshold (refer for example to column 12, line 45 through column 13, line 4, the spatial filter in Alattar behaves as a hysteresis filter); replacing the noisy block with a null block and an indication of noise (refer for example to column 13, lines 4-56).

As to claim 8, Alattar describes a computer-readable medium bearing instructions for compressing a media signal, the instructions being arranged to cause one or more processors upon execution thereof to perform the steps of the method according to claim 1 (see figures 6 and 7A-G which operate the elements in figure 1).

In regard to claim 9, Alattar describes processing the media signal to increase a number of null blocks in the media signal (refer for example to column 10, lines 61-68), wherein a difference between corresponding null blocks of preceding frames is zero

(refer for example to column 28, line 45 through column 29, line 5); and replacing each of the null blocks in the media signal with a first value, the first value being represented by one or more bits (refer for example to column 10, lines 61-68); and appending a second value other than the first value to a block in the media signal that is not one of the null blocks, the first value being represented by one or more bits (refer for example to column 10, lines 40-57).

With regard to claim 10, Alattar describes a computer-readable medium bearing instructions for compressing a media signal, the instructions being arranged to cause one or more processors upon execution thereof to perform the steps of the method according to claim 9 (see figures 6 and 7A-G which operate the elements in figure 1).

With regard to claim 11, Alattar describes replacing a specified bit in the media signal with a null block if the specified bit has a first value (refer for example to column 10, lines 58-68), wherein the null blocks represents a zero difference between corresponding null blocks of the preceding frames (refer for example to column 28, line 45 through column 29, line 5); and converting the null block into a non-null block (refer for example to column 10, lines 11-57).

As to claim 12, Alattar describes discarding the specified bit in the media signal if the specified bit has a second value other than the first value (refer for example to column 10, lines 11-57).

With regard to claim 14, Alattar describes wherein the converting the null block includes performing an inverse image stabilization analysis on the media signal (refer for example to column 8, line 68 through column 9, line 29).

As to claim 15, Alattar describes wherein performing the inverse image stabilization analysis includes determining an offset for the null block (refer for example to column 8, line 68 through column 9, line 3); and shifting the null block by the offset (refer for example to column 9, lines 18-29).

In regard to claim 16, Alattar describes wherein the converting the null block includes determining whether an indication of noise is associated with the null block (refer for example to column 17, lines 5-19); and adding noise to the null block (refer for example to column 17, lines 20-50).

As to claim 18, Alattar describes a computer-readable medium bearing instructions for decompressing a media signal, the instructions being arranged to cause one or more processors upon execution thereof to perform the steps of the method according to claim 11 (see figures 6 and 7A-G which operate the elements in figure 1).

In regard to claim 19, Alattar describes replacing a specified bit in the media signal with a null block (refer for example to column 10, lines 58-68), wherein the null blocks represents a zero difference between corresponding null blocks of the preceding frames and the first value is represented by one or more bits (refer for example to column 28, line 45 through column 29, line 5); discarding a second value, other than the first value, in the media signal, said second value being represented by one or more bits (refer for example to column 10, lines 11-57); and converting the null block into a non-null block (refer for example to column 10, lines 11-57).

With regard to claim 20, Alattar describes a computer-readable medium bearing instructions for decompressing a media signal, the instructions being arranged to cause

one or more processors upon execution thereof to perform the steps of the method according to claim 18 (see figures 6 and 7A-G which operate the elements in figure 1).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alattar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,297) in view of Khello (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,423).

Alattar discloses a method and system for encoding images using skip blocks similar to applicant's claimed invention which provides for numerous claimed limitations as show above.

Alattar does not disclose expressly encrypting the media signal based on a network identifier of a media source computer system.

Laney discloses a method and system for compressing video data which describes using null blocks and specifically provides for encrypting the media signal based on a network identifier of a media source computer system (refer for example to column 11, lines 25-29).

Alattar & Laney are combinable because they are from the area of image analysis and particularly because the are primarily concerned with compressing images in the intraframe and interframe modes.

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At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to encrypting the media signal based on a network identifier of a media source computer system as taught by Laney in the Alattar system.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been the need to encrypt data in multimedia personal computer area as suggested by Laney in column 1, lines 13-17 and column 2, lines 3-5.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Laney with Alattar to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 17.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Alattar et al., Wickstrom et al. ('518) and ('513), and Ghoshal all disclose systems similar to applicant's claimed invention.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (703) 305-4774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8576.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jlc
June 1, 2004



JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER